

**May a xxxi iour la lune**

**xi** v **S** plexippe **S** Jaques

c **S** athanaire

**xix** d **S** ardis

viii e **S** helene

f

**xvi** g **S** ichu

v **S** mastie

b

**xiii** c **S** nicolas

ii d **S** loup

e **S** geniol

**x** f

g

**xviii**

vii b

**xviii** c

**xv** d

**xiii** e

**f** **S** poteucicemie

**xii** g

**i**

**b**

**x** c

**d**

**xviii** e **S** vrbau

**vi** f

**g** **S** eutrope

**xiii**

**x** b

**c**

**xv** d **S** perwinielle

**MEDIEVAL BOOK OF HOURS LEAF, c. 1470**

***~ Calendar Leaf for the month of May ~***

**IM-1226:** (175x114mm) May calendar leaf from a medieval manuscript ***Book of Hours***. 17 lines of red ruled text on animal vellum; written in French. Major feast days are in red (**origin of term 'red-letter day'**). Large illuminated "**KL**" initials (abbreviation for KALENDS) are in gold on red and blue ground with white tracery. **Northern France, c. 1470.**

The succession of saints indicates use of Paris, perhaps written at Tours. Some of the Feast days highlighted are **Saints & Apostles Philip and James** (1 May), **St. Helena** (mother of Constantine the Great – 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Emperor), **John the Apostle** (6 May), **St. Nicholas** (8 May)

To the left of the list of saints' days are repeating series of letters *A - G* called ***Dominical Letters*** since they help find Sundays (after many appropriate calculations). At the far left is an odd column of Roman numerals *i - xix* called ***Golden Numbers*** to indicate appearances of new moons, & counting ahead 14 days, full moons throughout the year (year + 1; divide by 19; remainder is Golden Number - if zero GN = 19). Finally: each month had 3 fixed points: Kalends (1<sup>st</sup> day) Ides (middle) & Nones (9<sup>th</sup> day before Ides). All days in between were counted ***backwards*** from these points.